

Bishop James is a former member of the White House Advisory Board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and of the U.S. State Department's Advisory Board on Religious Freedom and served as National Vice President of the Interfaith Alliance. Bishop James is a life member of the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and is a 33rd degree Mason. He was also the first African American to serve on the board of directors at the National Bank of South Carolina and as a member of the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce.

Among his many honors, Bishop James holds an honorary doctorate of humanities from Monrovia College in Liberia. He received South Carolina's highest honor, the Order of the Palmetto, in 2003. In 2020, Bishop James received the Leon A. Love Lifetime Achievement Award from the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation and "Columbia SC 63: Our Story Matters." He has been inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame and the Columbia Housing Authority Wall of Fame.

Bishop James married Theresa Gregg on December 30, 1944, and the couple enjoyed 76 years of marriage before she passed away on January 25, 2021.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in celebrating the centennial anniversary of Bishop Fred James' birth. He was a mentor to me and so many others as he preached the gospel and the need for equality and justice for all. This important milestone, is a good time to let Bishop James know that we all feel blessed by his efforts to fulfill the charge of Micah to, "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly."

#### HONORING L.A. BLACK BUSINESS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD EARL "SKIP" COOPER II

##### HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2022*

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the legacy of Earl "Skip" Cooper II as he retires from the Black Business Association of Los Angeles.

For the last 50 years, Skip Cooper has fought tirelessly to break down barriers and uplift not only African American businesses, but all minority businesses. He has developed programs to assure that businesspeople, artists, and entrepreneurs had access to the financing, contracting, mentoring, and support that it takes to succeed, and he has served as an advisor to both the Latin and Asian business associations in Los Angeles prior to their formation. As a result, he has played a pivotal role in the success of countless businesses across the Los Angeles region.

Young Skip had a newspaper delivery route by age 10, and he never forgot the power of relationships and mentoring. Skip would go on to serve as a medic in the Vietnam War, and he returned home from service to study at Oakland's Merritt College, where he became one of the first in the country to earn an AA degree in African American Studies. He would later earn bachelor's and MBA degrees as well.

Early in his career, Skip interned at a Los Angeles area minority business resource cen-

ter where he saw the need to promote and support minority-owned businesses. At the end of Skip's internship, he joined the staff of what became the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. where, as program manager, Skip oversaw a state initiative that helped minority owned businesses secure purchasing contracts with public and private sector organizations. That led him to join the BBA where, in 1976, he embarked on its first trade mission to Washington, D.C.

Over decades of advocacy, Skip has had a significant role in the passage and implementation of legislation and regulations at the federal, state and local levels. He worked closely with legislators, especially the late California Asm. Gwen Moore and the late U.S. Rep. Parren Mitchell, to pass laws to address the historic disadvantage of minority businesses that had been shut out of public and private programs and funding opportunities.

The BBA will continue its annual salutes to Black history, Black women and Black music, its twice-annual veterans' procurement conference, and its e-commerce venture: a Black business shopping guide, all of which will further Skip's legacy, and his lifelong commitment to economic empowerment for people of color.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF GRADY WIGGINTON

##### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2022*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Grady Wigginton, as he passed away on February 12, 2013.

Mr. Wigginton was born just west of Guntown, MS on June 30, 1937. Mr. Wigginton was proud to grow up in rural Mississippi where he was able to learn about the nature and creatures of God's creation. After graduating from High school Mr. Wigginton decided to join the USMC. In his time serving the country he achieved the great accomplishment of being promoted to the rank of Sergeant (E-4) in just twenty-two months. He believed in God first, Country second, and family third. We thank him for his commitment to service.

After Mr. Wigginton's service to his country he worked for CPI. At CPI he went on to become both a district and regional manager. He enjoyed hiring and working with new employees as he saw it was his responsibility to motivate them to do their jobs to the best of their ability. Due to his commitment to a hard-working staff both his district and regional teams won multiple awards for sales and profit.

Mr. Wigginton will be greatly missed, and we thank him for his service to his country and community.

##### DOMINIC SANCHEZ

##### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dominic San-

chez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Dominic Sanchez is a 12th grader at North Valley School for Young Adults and received this award because their determination and hard work have allowed them to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dominic Sanchez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dominic Sanchez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of their future accomplishments.

#### HONORING CRAIG MCLEAN ON FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

##### HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 29, 2022*

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Assistant Administrator Craig McLean on his retirement after forty years of distinguished service in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This son of New Jersey grew up on the Passaic River and turned a childhood passion for ocean diving and exploration into a forty-year career that started as a commissioned NOAA Corps deck officer charting the ocean floor and culminated as a preeminent champion of NOAA's mission to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean, and coasts.

Craig started working on diving boats as a teenager. As a college student at Rutgers University, where he earned his B.A. in Zoology in 1979, he investigated barges dumping toxic sludge into waterways. While serving as a NOAA Corps officer and, later as a senior executive of NOAA, Craig was instrumental to founding NOAA's Ocean Exploration and Research Program and its mapping of U.S. waters to advance oceanographic scientific knowledge and discover deep ocean secrets including new species, historical shipwrecks, and undersea mountains. With Craig's leadership, NOAA mapped two million square kilometers of the ocean floor, collected ocean data in the waters of sixteen countries and the high seas, and contributed to key conservation decisions for vital marine habitats such as establishment of new marine national monuments and deep sea protection areas.

Craig served as Assistant Administrator for NOAA Oceanic and Atmospheric Research for over six years. He expertly led an enterprise of ten federal laboratories across the country and six major programs. Under his tenure, NOAA Research achieved vital advancements for the benefit of the Nation, including improved forecasting of weather extremes such as hurricanes, winter storms, and excesses and deficits of precipitation, enabling society to be better prepared to reduce the severe impacts of these events on life and destruction